

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-78 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 23, 42, 51, 56, 62, 68, and 74 are independent. In this Amendment, Claims 13 and 49 have been amended. No new matter has been added. All amendments presented herein are made for clarity with respect to the specification and drawings, and not for reasons relating to the statutory requirements for patentability.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 21-22, 27-30, 46-48, and 53-55 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 13, and 49-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly lacking antecedent basis for the term "digital camera appliance." Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants submit that it is moot in view of the amendments to Claims 13 and 49.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 14-20, 23-26, 31,33-35, 41-45, 49-52, 56-58, 60-62, 65-69, 74, 75, 77, and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Vanderwerf (U.S. Patent No. 6,530,664). Claims 5, 32, 59, and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Vanderwerf in view of Bates (U.S. Patent No. 5,490,655). Claims 9-13 and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Vanderwerf in view of Saund '290 (U.S. Patent No. 5,528,290). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Vanderwerf in view of Funado (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,107).

Claims 63, 70-73, and 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Vanderwerf in view of Saund '266 (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,266).

Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

Vanderwerf discloses a video and/or data conferencing system including a projection system, that incorporates a camera mounted so as to capture a presenter, or documents displayed on screen. The camera is coupled to a CPU. However, Vanderwerf fails to disclose or suggest at least a camera-based system for capturing images of a target area where at least one digital camera is mounted on a boom assembly at a location spaced from the plane of said target area, where the at least one digital camera is oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses the target area.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Vanderwerf reference is not citable as prior art against the present application. Applicants conceived and diligently reduced to practice the inventions defined by Claims 1-78 prior to the March 3, 1999 priority date of Vanderwerf. Applicants enclose herewith a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 executed by inventors Vaughn E. Keenan, Wallace I. Kroeker, Mark A. Fletcher, and Shawn W. Duce. In view of this Declaration, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner to remove all rejections of the claims based on Vanderwerf.

Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining references do not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, and do not remedy the deficiencies of Vanderwerf. None of the references discloses at least a camera-based system for capturing images of a target area including a boom assembly with at least one digital

camera mounted thereon, where the digital camera is oriented such that the field of view encompasses the target area, and a controller that communicates with the digital camera to receive image data and processes the image data to form a digital image of the target area. (Claims 1, 23, 42.)

Further, none of the remaining references disclose or suggest an image publication and distribution method including the steps of acquiring an image of a target area that includes information recorded on said target area using an optical recording device, said optical recording device being mounted on a generally horizontal boom positioned above said target area; and posting the image to a site in response to user input to allow said image to be accessed by a user through a client browser application. (Claim 51.)

Similarly, none of the remaining references disclose or suggest a system for capturing images of an area of interest including a boom extending outwardly from a wall surface and being positioned above an area to be imaged; an optical recording device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said area, said optical recording device being aimed towards said area; and a controller in communication with said optical recording device, said controller conditioning said optical recording device to acquire at least one image of said area in response to operator input. (Claim 56.)

In addition, none of the remaining references disclose or suggest a system for capturing an image including an arm configured to extend outwardly from a generally vertical surface; an imaging device mounted adjacent a distal end of said arm

at a location laterally spaced from said surface, said imaging device being operable to capture an image of an area located below said arm; and a controller in communication with said imaging device, said controller conditioning said imaging device to acquire an image of said area in response to operator input, said controller further posting said acquired image to a site accessible to a user through a web client application in response to operator input. (Claim 62.)

Further, none of the remaining references disclose or suggest a system for capturing images of a writing surface including a boom extending outwardly from a wall surface and being positioned above said writing surface to be imaged; a digital camera device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said wall surface, said digital camera device being actuable to capture an image of said writing surface; and a controller mounted on said wall surface and being in communication with said digital camera device, said controller conditioning said digital camera device to capture at least one image of said writing surface in response to operator input. (Claim 68.)

Finally, none of the remaining references disclose or suggest an imaging system to capture an image of a write board mounted on a wall surface, said imaging system including a boom configured to extend outwardly from said wall surface above said write board; an imaging device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said wall surface, said imaging device being actuable to capture an image of said write board; and a controller configured to be mounted on said wall surface and being in communication with said imaging device, said controller conditioning said

imaging device to capture an image of said write board in response to operator input.

(Claim 74.)

Rather, Bates discloses mounting a video/data projector to a wall mount using a wall plate secured to a wall surface where the wall mount is releasably coupled to the wall mount.

Saund '290 discloses a camera subsystem that captures a target area that may use a plurality of cameras, each directed at a different subregion of the target area. Saund '290 also discloses that the target areas may overlap in order to form a complete image.

Funado discloses a remote controller including a display for displaying images, where the display is may show image data and control information to make the remote controller multifunctional.

Saund '266 discloses sending image data to various destinations, such as LANs, WANs, the internet, etc. Applicants also note that in view of the date of conception established in the Declaration of Inventors under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 submitted herewith, Saund '266 is unavailable as a basis for rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the U.S. Patents cited above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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